A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, June 24. 1712.

THE *Protestant Succession* is now the Grand Article of our Thoughts, and whether it shall be strengthned or weakened by *the Peace in View*, is the Question: For my part, I acknowledge, I would fain perswade myself, the Protestant Succession is a Thing that lies so near the Heart of every honest *Britain*, that it is not in the Power of any Prince or Power in the World to Overthrow; and therefore tho' I have been backward to speak it publickly, yet I must acknowledge, my Notions differ from most People, about Guarranteeing that Settlement by the Foreign Alliances, not that I will Concern myself one Way or other, in the Disputes which now are enter'd into, upon that Head: The Voice of the People of *Great-Britain* is to me so effectual a Security for the one, and against the other, that I think verily, if all the *Popish* Powers of *Europe* would put the Pretender upon us; if the People of *Britain* would not receive him, they could not force us to it, and *if we will*, all the Protestant Powers in *Europe* could not keep him out; and this is evident, in the great Industry the Party make use of, to bring over the People of this Land to his Interest, to perswade them against the Interest of the House of *Hanover*,

ver, and to Imprint Prejudices against the Person of his Electoral Highness, and against his Family.

From hence I think our present Business lies more to preserve our own People from *Jacobite* Infection at Home, than to be forming Interests Abroad; as if the People were Averse to it, and we were preparing to force them to comply: To fly to Foreign Aid to Secure the Protestant Succession, seems to me to Dishonour the Assurance we have at Home in the People of *Britain*; I would not have such a Thing named among us, the Doubt should not be admitted, that we wanted help to keep him out; our Safety alone, is in God and ourselves; there may be Politick Ends in proposing these Foreign Guarrantees, and some People are forward to propose what they themselves would not have pass, only because they think the denying it is to the Disadvantage of the Party who oppose them; these are State Policies which I have nothing to do with, neither do I desire to be acquainted with them.

My View is here, I would take no Step that should suggest our Insufficiency to Resist the Pretender: As I said formerly, to be afraid of the Pretender, is to Encourage him: The *Jacobites*, like some sorts of Mungrels among us, if you stand up to them, rate, and cudgel them, they are silent and humble, quiet, and give you no disturbance; but if you shun them, fly from them, appear shy and afraid, they bark and run at you immediately open-Mouth'd.

Besides, Gentlemen, Why is the Pretender more Formidable just now, when he is Banish'd or Remov'd out of *France*, and when the King of *France* is oblig'd to disown him, than he was before? Is he the more Powerful Abroad for it, or is it that he depends upon the growth of his Interest among us? Or is his Removal a Sham to delude and bubble the Queen and People of *Britain*? Certainly, if he has any Dependencies now, *it is here*, not Abroad; it is upon our People at Home, more than the *French* Interest Abroad.

The Business therefore is, that we all take care to undeceive the poor Impos'd upon People at Home, and prevent the Forming a *Jacobite* Interest here, for at Home is the Danger, and this is the Work to which I shall apply myself: *As to Guarrantees from Abroad*; my Notion is very plain, if it may be Confuted, I am very willing to be Answer'd.

The Protestant Powers are Engag'd by their own Interest, *which is the best Guarrantee in the World*, to stand by the Elector of *Hanover* in his Claim, and to propagate his just Pretensions to the Crown of *Great Britain*, and therefore as there is a natural Guarrantee, I do not concern myself for the rest.

As for the *Popish Powers* of the Confederacy, I see nothing in them worth accepting them for a Guarrantee —— If the Emperor finds it his Interest, he will come in of course, *if not*, let those who will depend upon his Guarrantee, go learn Wit of the King of *Sweden*, and Enquire about the Imperial Guarrantee of the Treaty of *Altranstet*, as to the King of *Portugal* his Guarrantee; and that of the four *Indian* Kings that came hither from *New York*, I look upon to be much alike, and as to the Duke of *Savoy*, he is like to come in to a Guarrantee of our Succession, who thinks himself Injur'd by it, and Claims for himself before the *House of Hanover*, and *Popery* excepted, has the true Light of Descent; for my part, I shall at any time think the *Pope* as good a *Guarrantee*, as either of the two latter —— Who knows but we may have a Protestant *Pope* again, as we had at the Revolution?

In short then, a *Popish Guarrantee* is not worth a Farthing, and the Protestant *Guarrantee* is effectually included in the Nature of the Thing; so that I look on the Motion is a cert in Place about a Guarrantee, to be only a push at Parties, and a Trial of Skill, perhaps it has its Ends however, which are answer'd another Way; but as to the real *Guarrantee* of our Succession, I do not reckon it was any part of the Design.

But

But if you will look about you for the Danger of the *Pretender*, *look at* HOME, *Gentlemen*, it has always, and most truly been said of *England*, that *she can never be Ruin'd but by herself*, the Encrease and Encouragement of *Jacobites* is at HOME: This is the Work before you, tho' little enough ye do in it: Strife, Division, Irreconcileable Prejudices at one another, these are not the Steps to Ruin the Pretender's Interest, *on the contrary*, these open the Door to him: Here alone, *if ever he comes among us*, he will enter; but we are a-sleep, we are drunk and intoxicated with Fury at one another, Raging of Parties, and dreadful Animosities, and in the mean Time, the diligent *Jacobites* improve their Interest out of the Ruins of our Peace—These are the *Troubled Waters* they Fish in, this is the Case of which they say, *a ha, so would we have it.*

In short, I have but one hope left against *Jacobitism*, and that is the Precipitation and Ungovern'd Fury of the Party themselves; if they have any Temper, any Patience, they have nothing to do but to clap their Hands, and set us on upon one another, *Worrying, Biting, and Devouring one another*; and we shall all most readily do the Work for them, we shall all bring in the Pretender for them: While we are tearing one anothers Throats out, and holding the Hands of the Government from shewing their Resentment at those Foreign Mischiefs, having other Mischiefs Personally Fatal to guard against; What are we doing but bringing in the Pretender?

But the Infatuated *Jacobites* are doing our Work for us, and of this I gave you a Worthy Specimen in my last, in a Letter from *Edinburgh* —— They are for turning the Lenity and forbearance of the Government into Treason, and throwing the Queen's Forbearance back into her own Face —— What else means the *Jacobites* in *Scotland*, in their Mob-Anniversary of the 10th of *June*, by the following Excesses and Healths, *viz?*

Confusion to the Government.
Confusion to the Succession.
No Abjuration.
Down with the Hannoverians.
God save King James VIIIth. *&c.*

Now how many *Jacobites* does any-body think this Rabble at *Edinburgh* has made? Or rather, how many Thousand People has it fill'd with Indignation against *Jacobitism*, who before could not have believ'd, that such a Spirit had been among us?

These People are cutting their own Throats, forcing her Majesty in spight of innate Mercy and Compassion, to Resent and Punish, forcing the People in spight of Wilful Delusions, to open their Eyes; this is not the Way to bring the Nation over; this is not the Way to bring on the *Pretender's Interest*, but to enrage the People against *the Pretender.*

Why then should we be Angry at the *Jacobites* in *Scotland*? Let them go on: Thus King James Ruin'd his own Interest, and his own Cause; and thus Heaven in Justice to Wicked Designs, suffers a People so prepare their Destruction, by Infatuated, Monstrous, Impolitick Fury and Rashness, *Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat*; Let the *Jacobites* therefore go on; I wish nothing more, than that they would have done the same Thing here, and made two or three Bonfires here, on the *Pretender's Birth-Day*, they could not have done their Cause more Service.

If her Majesty has any Pity or Compassion, or Kindness for them, as her mistaken Subjects, she will severely punish and Chastize them; but if her Majesty Resolves the Ruin *of their Interest, and the Destruction of their Cause*, I think verily the Way is, to let them alone a little longer, and they will all Ruin both themselves and their Cause.

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